prudential guidelines for the development and regulation of all Mutual Funds which invest primarily in the capital market and for ensuring investor protection. The regulatory frame work under these guidelines includes *inter alia* authorisation of Mutual Funds by the Securities and Exchange Board of India on the basis of certain eligibility criteria, restrictions on their business activities, disclosure and accounting requirements, and penal provisions for violation of these guidelines.

Floating of Bonds by Maharashtra

1952. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Government of Maharashtra have proposed to the Central Government for public borrowing through Bonds for accelerating completion of Irrigation projects in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what decision has been taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) & (b) The Government of Maharashtra had sent a proposal seeking approval to float bonds worth about Rs.750 crores for financing irrigation projects in the State. Approval could not be granted to this proposal as the scheme of public sector bonds applies only to Central Public Sector undertakings.

Pending Loan Application with S.B.I., Pilkhuva in Uttar Pradesh

1953. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: SHRI N.E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that loan application from weavers are pending with the State Bank of India, Pilkhuva in Uttar Pradesh since 18 March, 1986;

(b) whether it is also a fact that loan applicants and those who have already been granted loans are being harassed by the State Bank of India authorities;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) what action Government propose to take against the Bank in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (d) State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that no application received by the said branch in 1986 is pending. The banks recover their dues from borrowers as a part of their normal banking activities. The defaulting borrowers are . advised by them to regularise their accounts by issue of notices, personal contacts etc. In some cases, legal proceedings are also taken up against the borrowers for effecting recoveries. Any specific complaint of harassment of any borrower, whenever received, is looked into by the bank.

Operation of Mediclaim Policy

1954. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to to state:

<a) whether it is a fact that General Insurance Corporation of India and its four subsidiaries had tied up arrangements with hospitals nursing homes, diagnostic centres in Delhi for the benefit of mediclaim policy holders wherein they could get medical bill reimbursed direct from the Insurance companies;

(b) if so, what are the names of such hospitals, nursing homes, diagnostic centres affiliated with insurance companies, company-wise;

(c) if not, what alternative steps are proposed in the matter so that policy holders are not harassed and ignored;

(d) whether insurance companies are issuing credit cards to mediclaim policy holders incorporating the maximum amount limit that could be availed and establish identification, if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) if not, what alternative remedial measures are proposed to provide necessary safeguards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The General Insurance Corporation of India and its four subsidiary companies have entered into tie-up arrangement with Batra Hospital in Delhi. In addition,

policy holders can also take treatment in any hospital /nursing home of their choice and seek reimbursement of hospitalisation expenses subject to the limits of benefits available under the policy.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The present practice of issuing certificate of cover has been found to be quite satisfactory.

Proportion between Government Deficit and GDP

1955. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a decline in the Union Government's deficit in proportion of gross domestic products; and

(b) if so, what is the present proportion between the two and what are the basis of such calculations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) & (b) Fiscal deficit of the Union Government on the basis of provisional Accounts amounted to Rs. 44650 crores in 1990-91, which was 8.4% of GDP for the year. It is expected to decline to Rs. 37792 crores in RE 1991-92, which would be 6.3% of the estimated GDP for the current year. It is estimated to further go down to Rs. 34408 crores at the end of 1992-93.

Permission to open Banks by Finance and Leasing Companies

1956. SHRI RAJUBHAI PARMAR: SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have allowed some finance and leasing companies to open private banks;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and

(c) what are the details of stipulations made to operate certain branches in rural areas and to restrict banking operations abroad by sucli privately opened banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a)Reserve Bank of India have reported That there is no proposal as yet to allow finance and leasing companies to operate as banks.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Refinance Scheme for Assistance to Marketing Entrepreneurs

1957. SHRIMATI PRATTBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the refinance scheme for assistance to marketing entrepreneurs to set up outlets for sale of-SSf products has been covered under Single Window Scheme of SIDBI and shall be operated through Commercial Bank, if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether such loan shall be covered under the Credit Guarantee Scheme of DICGC;

(c) if so, whether Commercial Banks have been instructed not to insist collateral security from the entrepreneurs except mortgage of, outlets, fixed assets and hypothecation of movable assets; if so, what are the datails of Circular Letter issued by SIDBI in this regard; and

(d) whether Government have notified, that composite loan under Single Window Scheme shall be operated through Commerical Banks in order to enlarge the flow of assistance, if so, what are the details of the notification, serial-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The Small' Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) had introduced a Refinance Scheme for assistance to marketing entrepreneurs in July, 1990 for strengthening and expanding the marketing infrastructure at villages, small towns and semiurban areas to provide support to all segments of the small scale sector viz. cottage, village, tiny and small units. The scheme is operated through SFCs, SIDCs and banks, including commercial banks, Under the Scheme, assistance is provided to individuals, partnership concerns, private and public limited companies with experience in marketing to set up rates